[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 03: Letters 21-30

[Letter 21]

Edward Clark
August 10 1869
[ackf?] Peats

Architects Office U.S. Capitol Extension
Washington. D.C July 11, 1869
W.W Corcoran Esq.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir;

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of twenty eight plans, tracings [ie?] relating to the Corcoran Art Building.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant
Edwin Clark
Architech

[Letter 22]
Alfred Hunter
July 17 1869
Plaster copies from the British Government

Washington D.C. July 17, 1869

William W. Corcoran Esquire

Dear Sir,

I respectfully call your attention to a matter which will add in an extraordinary manner to the usefulness of your late munificence gift. If you should think proper to adopt it.

The British Government will give free a Plaster copy of all the great collection of statues and works of art in their possession. Upon application of any Foreign Government, these at the regulated list of prices amount to large sum, but the cost of packing they require to be paid for. If you think well of it and would pay that expense upon the application to the President, I have no doubt he would direct the application to be made and perhaps would authorize a national vessel to bring them.

Over twenty years ago there were about fifteen hundred and probably more has been added [since. At? this?] time I called President Pierce's attention to it but he did not think proper to move in the matter of the value of them to form a school of design here it will not be necessary for me to state to you. It would probably attract four or five hundred students yearly here to copy them, and the copies would reach every village in the country.

You have been about the Capital of the Country, works of art accumulating and almost all done by foreigners. And if there is anything in which Americans are sadly deficient in is their ignorance of Art & Design.

I hope you will excuse me for making this suggestion to you and remain

Yours very respectfully,
Alfred Hunter

[Letter 23]
Juan Tyson
Mexico September 4 1869
To sell gallery of paintings

Mexico September 4 1869
WW Corcoran Esquire
Washington

Dear Sir,

The undersigned, although he has not the honor to be acquainted with you, personally, takes this liberty to address himself to you, because he heard that you, as a man who interests himself greatly for Arts and Sciences, have the intention to establish in the capital of the free

country a museum and gallery of pictures; and being in possession of a valuable gallery of classic pictures gathered through many years sacrifices and great trouble.

Being now an old man [I?] am desirous to leave this country of bad faith generally, for ever, I would like very much to sell this valuable property of mine, wishing nevertheless that it should change into hands that would know to appreciate my collection.

As soon as I know that you might enter into negociation with me, I shall send you the catalogue which consists of over one hundred originals of the best and most appreciated and nevertheless so poorly represented in the cabinet of the spanish school.

The Emperor Maximilian intended to buy my pictures, when unfortunately for him, it was too late and amongst the same. I hold some that belonged to him and others that he had ordered from Europe.

In order not to be too long, I beg to name the following authors as a leading feature of my Picture-Gallery; [viz?]

Spanish School: Ruelas, Alonso Cano, [Murillo?], Herrera, Pedro de [Moya?], [Echave?], Villapando, Calderon, Arteaga, [Zurbaran?], [Becerra?], [Antoliner?], Diego Velazques, [etc. etc?].

Galian School: Guido [Rini?], Palma Vechio, Tintoreto, Carlo Marratto, Salvatore Rosa, Anibal Carracci, Albano, Guarcino], Spagnoleto, Lucas Giordono [etc. etc?].
German, Dutch and Flemish Schools: Frank, F. Frank, Filip [Wonvemann?], Rubens, Bergem, Vander Vier, Nyger, Versherring, [Bakhiusen?], Lingelbach, [Rugendas?] Abraham Janssen, Veenix], Wienants, Fluggen, [etc. etc?] Ya Ya.
French School: Noel Coypel, Marrisse, Largillair, Ledien, Boucher [etc. etc.]

I shall feel very obliged if you will honor me with answer at all events and remain

Dear Sir
Most respectfully yours of [obediently?]
Juan Tyson

Please add refs to
Juan Tyson, City of Mexico, 2. Callejon de [Aranda?]

[Letter 24]
[Capt. D.G. Thomas
Depot Q.M.
September 15 1869
Surrendering and returning the key of the Art Gallery

[Letterhead of the Depot Quartermaster's Office Washington, D.C, September 15 1869
To the Trustees of the Corcoran Art Museum and Building
Washington, D.C
Gentlemen:

I enclose herewith, the key of the "Corcoran Art Building", corner of Pennsylvania Ave and Seventeenth Streets, in this City-the care of which is relinquished by the U.S firm this date.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant
D.G. Thomas
Captain and M.S.K., USA
Acting Department [General?]

[Back of letter 24]
United States September 15, 1869 with the key

[Letter 25]
[Stationery card from Jay Cooke and Company Washington, D.C.]

Jas J. Jarves Collection
Offers a collection of paintings for sale
October 8, 16, 19 and November 9 and 18 1869
Corcoran Art Gallery

5 Letters removed by [IRS?] for photostating
Dec 1,1939
The Corcoran

(1)
[Letterhead of The Corcoran Gallery of Art Washington D.C., C. Powell Minnigerode Director-and-Secretary]

Charles Sumner
Boston 8 September 1869

My Dear Sir,

I send you a catalogue of the Jarves Collection of pictures chiefly Italian which are now on exhibition in a hall of Yale College. I [understand?] that they are [mortgaged?] for $20,000, with liberty to take them for $50,000. [At?] the beginning of a gallery or part of a gallery they are [admirable?].

I regret much that I cannot secure them from Boston; but, as we have no public gallery here, I am disinterested in the effort. I hope soon for a public gallery where I am confident there will be a rivalry in [helping?] it. Meanwhile, we wait.

In Washington we are so fortunate as to have a public gallery, through the splendid endowment it will make the Corcoran Gallery, what I desire to see it, material in value and importance.
I write to you freely, knowing your interest in art, [illegible] your intimate connection with the gallery, I confessing also my strong personal desire to see Washington [launched?] [illegible]. If these pictures cannot go to Boston, I would have them at Washington.

Believe me my dear sir, very faithfully yours,
Charles Sumner

(2)
J.J. Jarves
October 12 1869

Boston, October 12 1869
[H.?]D. Cooke Esquire

Dear Sir,

The [Honorable?] Charles Sumner has handed me your letter of the fourth [illegible], in relation to the purchase of my collection of Old Masters. It is proper to state that [action?] on this matter is now going [on?] at Chicago, looking to the purchase of my entire gallery, the 120 paintings now at New Haven and those still in Europe, for the sum of $100,000 or for $60,000 for those at Yale only. I am assured by the gentlemen interested that the sum will be raised. But I should prefer to have my pictures go to Washington and become identified with our National Capital. As you state there are no funds that could be immediately used for the purchase, I would consent that the Trustees of the Corcoran Institute of Fine Arts should take them at any time that suited their own convenience before the expiration of 1870, [illegible] the payment to Yale of the $20,000, advanced [illegible] [them?] by the College, and paying me seven percent interest quarterly [on?] the balance, giving [illegible] year for that, if desired. As I am obliged to return to Florence Italy, in about three weeks, I should be glad to hear from you at your early pleasure.

Very truly yours,
James J Jarves

(3)
[Letterhead of Cape Cod Glass Company, Office 102 Milk Street, Boston, October 19 1869]
H.D. Cooke Esquire
Washington

Dear Sir,

By mail I send you a copy of a new work of mine to be published next week, entitled “Art-[illegible]” the experiences and observations of an American amateur in Europe, of which I beg your acceptance. Chapter 14 contains some important matter relative to my gallery of Old Masters, as you will perceive. By my agreement with Yale College I am not obliged to return the $20,000 borrowed of the authorities until December 1870; so that the pictures can remain where they are until then. If it would be any inconvenience to any [I’m?] [words on corner of letter are torn off] ...thus purchased them, as they can be taken away at my [option?] meantime. My desire is to make a definite and final disposition of them as a nucleus of a public gallery, before my return to Europe early in November, being content to receive the interest in their price until they can be conveniently paid for, in case they go to Washington, which would particularly gratify me [and be?] no small compensation for the time and money they have cost me since 1850 to collect them.

Very truly yours,
James J. Jarves

(4)
J.J. Jarves
November 9 1869

Parker House, Boston
November 9, 1869
H.D. Cooke Esquire

Dear Sir,

As I am about leaving for Italy to rejoin my family to remain permanently abroad. I should be glad to hear at an early date the result of the action of the Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery in my [imposition?] to you relative to my gallery of Old Masters now at Yale. While preferring that they should go to our National Capital, I cannot bind myself to [thus proposition longer?] than to give a reasonable period for it to be acted upon, as it is desirable to me to have it settled before I leave the country, in that I be free to entertain any other plan for their final [dispontives?]. Be so good as to let me know your views.

I believe me very truly yours,
James J. Jarves

(5)
Parker House, Boston, November [18?] 1869
H.D. Cooke Esquire

Dear Sir,

My address after today until the twenty fourth [next?], when I embark for Europe, will be St. James Hotel, Broadway, New York. In case you have any communications to make regarding my gallery.

Very truly yours
James J. Jarves

[Back of letter]
James J. Jarvis November 18 1869

[Letter 26]
Circular of John B. Day October 27 1869
Stone monuments Tumuli and ornaments of remote ages

[Letterhead of the Precinct of the Savoy, Strand, London]
October 27, 1869

The Trustees
Corcoran Art Institution

Sirs,

Mr. J.B. Waring [F.R.I.B.A?. - Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects?] has at considerable labor and expense collected a large folio of valuable and interesting material forming a most desirable and useful Antiquarian Volume.

As the publication of this work is entirely dependent upon sufficient support being promised to cover the cost of its production. I venture to solicit the favor of your name as a subscriber to ensure its early issue.

Her Majesty the Queen has headed the list and the Department of Science and Art by their liberal subscription recognize the importance of the work.

I remain Sirs, your obedient servant
John B. Day
[have just received [illegible] [Early?] [Arndell?] [Wardons?] - Lord Darnley [Mead?] [WC?] [Macfarlane?]]

[Circular and certification of subscription enclosed with letter]

[Letter 27]

A.B. Mullet
Edward Clark [arcl?]
J.C. Kennedy [and?] Building Committee
November 11 1869

(Copy)
Washington D.C Nov. 11th 1869

Gentlemen:

[Your?] of this date asking on what terms we are willing to supervise the completion of the Corcoran Art Building is received. In reply we have to say that we have been informed that Mr. Renwick has been compelled by business engagements to decline visiting this city to supervise the work; we are therefore willing to give our assistance in carrying out his designs, provided they are to be carried out in their entirety, as well think that his plans should be rigidly adhered to, and that the credit for the design and details should be entirely due to him.

With this understanding we are willing to give our services without compensation, as a slight, as a slight testimonial of our interest in this munificent gift of Mr. Corcoran.

If this arrangement is satisfactory we would suggest that all plans, specifications, detail drawings and models be placed at our disposal and that Mr. Renwick be requested to supply any deficiencies in the models or detail drawings.

Very respectfully (signed)
A.B. Mullet
Edward Clark

To Messrs.
J.C. Kennedy
H.D. Cooke
J.C. Hall
Building Committee Corcoran Art Gallery

[Letter 28]

Jas. C. Kennedy and others
Building Committee
November 11, 1869

To W.W. Corcoran
Washington D.C
November 11, 1869
W.W. Corcoran Esquire

Dear Sir,

We beg to enclose a letter received this day from Messrs Mullett (Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department) and Clark (Architect of the Capitol) who have kindly undertaken to give their professional supervision to the work of completing the Art Gallery, upon the plans and specifications of Mr. Renwick, the original designer.

It is our desire to carry out faithfully these plans, and to that end we have to request that the drawings, etc., in detail, be furnished as soon as practicable.

We have the honor to remain, dear sir,
Very Truly yours,
James C. Kennedy
J.C. Hale
H.D Cooke
[Building Committee]

[Letter 29]

Edwin Atherstone
London November 15, 1869
Offering “Coronation of Queen Victoria” by Martin

[19?] Macaulay Building
Bath (England) November 15

Sir

From a passage in the Times, extracted from an American paper, I learn that you desire to pair some fine pictures of the English school for the Art Institution of which you are the founder.

Allow me to [command?] to your attention a very brilliant painting by our greatest poetical painter, John Martin, with whose works, (through engravings at least) you are [undoubtedly?] acquainted. The subject is “The Coronation of Queen Victoria”. It is not, like some other pictures of the Coronation, restricted to a few figures merely, but represents most vividly the interior of Westminster Abbey, and the whole vast and brilliant assembly. Upwards of 100 of the [chief?] figures are portraits taken [from?] the life. Mr. Martin received for it 1000 guineas.

It is now the property of a lady who will accept for it £250. The picture is an upright: about [8 and ⅔?] feet in height and 6 feet in width. [For?] a year or two it hung in the South Kensington Museum but it was [illegible] during some alterations in the building. Is is now with the house of Ed. [Varney?] Esquire [(late MP. for Norwich?)] 49 Grosvenor Place, London.

Should you [deport?] any one to see it, free admission will be given at the mention of my name. I was, during 30 years, Martin's most intimate friend, and [saw?] the picture begun and finished. It has never been [exposed?]. Martin's son, and daughters would give this attestation to the originality of the picture.

I am, Sir, with much respect,
Your obedient servant
Edwin Atherstone

William Corcoran Esq.

[Letter 30]

Mrs. Dr. H. King
18 November 1869
List of paintings for sale

Washington 18 November 1869

To James M. Carlisle Esquire
President of the Corcoran Arts Building

Honorable Sir,

[illegible] to your perusal the inclosed List of Paintings and request you respectfully to visit them yourself.

The paintings were purchased by my husband (now deceased) Dr. H. King who was both a connoisseur and amateur of the arts.

Very respectfully,
Dr. H. King

[Lists of paintings belonging to Mrs. Dr. H. King enclosed with letter]